

and children first. Just recently, she organized a bipartisan effort to improve Michigan's high school proficiency test. In 1994, under her able leadership a special committee developed a 14 bill package on domestic violence that was signed into law helping millions of women and children deal with the pain of domestic abuse.

Sharon has not only been active in Lansing, she is deeply involved in Macomb County. Sharon had been an active member in organizations such as the Clinton Township Goodfellows, the Mount Clements Art Center, Macomb County Child Abuse and Neglect Information Council, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 154, and the Democratic women's caucus. Throughout the years, she has worked on issues that concern children, seniors, veterans, substance abuse and environmental causes. Sharon's expertise, developed from her work in counseling and social work, has given her a special talent for helping people.

Throughout the years, I have had the pleasure to work with Sharon on many issues and projects. She is a problem solver and strong leader. Few people have given to their community as Sharon has given to hers. Her vision and dedication has touched the lives of many people. I want to congratulate Sharon on her very distinguished career in the legislature. We will miss her very much in the State legislature but I am confident Sharon's vision will continue to touch our lives. I wish Sharon and her husband Dana all of the best and I look forward to working with them on many valuable projects in the future.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE EASTERN CAMPUS OF SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 1997*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Eastern Campus of Suffolk Community College as its students, professors, administrators, and friends celebrate the college's 20th anniversary of providing higher education to the communities of eastern Long Island.

Opened in 1977 on a 192-acre site in the rural Pine Barrens region of Southampton Town, near the Suffolk County seat in Riverhead, the Eastern Campus is the third and smallest campus of Suffolk County Community College system. But the dreams of those students who attend this 2-year institution of higher education are no smaller than those attending the most prestigious Ivy League school. For the past 20 years, the Eastern Campus of SCCC has provided a glorious opportunity to the diverse mix of students from the rural and suburban communities of Eastern Suffolk County to receive their college degrees and achieve their personal dreams.

The diversity of the Eastern Campus' student body is as deep as it is wide, ranking from those who have just graduated high school to a growing number of returning adults—be they displaced workers or former homemakers—who seek the advanced skills needed in today's marketplace. What they possess in common is a commitment to edu-

cation and the work ethic as the path to a better life.

The dedication is evident in the 34 percent of students who work full-time while attending the college, and the 27 percent who drive more than 21 miles to attend classes at the Southampton campus. To serve this diverse range of students, the Eastern Campus of SCCC offers a wide array of 2-year associates degrees from accounting to technology, early childhood education to restaurant management.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representative join me in honoring the Eastern Campus of Suffolk Community College on this special 20th anniversary celebration. We on eastern Long Island take special pride in our commitment and support for education, and we are privileged to have the Eastern Campus of Suffolk Community College here in our backyard, providing our family and neighbors with the opportunities they need to better themselves and make our community a better place for all of us to live and work.

#### FINISHING THE JOB OF REFORM IN LATIN AMERICA

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 30, 1997*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention my monthly newsletter on foreign affairs from October 1997 entitled *Finishing the Job of Reform in Latin America*.

I ask that this newsletter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The newsletter follows:

#### FINISHING THE JOB OF REFORM IN LATIN AMERICA

The President's recent trip to Latin America highlights the striking changes in relations between the United States and its neighbors in the hemisphere. There were no glaring disputes or major anti-American protests. There were many points of agreement between the President and his counterparts in the countries he visited—Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina. Reform has taken hold in Latin America, but much remains to be done to finish the job.

Democracy and free markets. Democracy and free markets—long time U.S. foreign policy goals for the region—have become the norm throughout Latin America during the past decade. These changes have had tangible benefits: U.S. exports to Latin America are growing twice as fast as those to any other region of the world.

In Venezuela, President Caldera has restored confidence in a government previously riddled by scandal. An emerging oil industry is rapidly absorbing U.S. investment and produces more oil for U.S. consumers than any other country. Through fiscal and monetary discipline, Venezuela is beginning to tame corruption and inflation.

In Brazil, military regimes are gone, replaced by an elected president and an independent Congress. The Brazilian economy is the eighth largest in the world, and by far the largest in Latin America. No longer constrained by Brazilian protectionism, \$7 billion in direct investment poured into Brazil from the United States last year alone. Brazil's 160 million consumers bought more U.S. goods last year than did China.

Argentina has also replaced military juntas with a succession of elected presidents and legislatures. Argentina's military—once a law unto itself—is now a model for international cooperation and participation in peacekeeping operations. President Clinton designated Argentina a major non-NATO ally based on its impressive peacekeeping record and responsible international role.

Incomplete reform. Reform in Latin America is not yet complete, and the progress made so far is fragile. Corruption continues to hinder investment and benefit the well-connected. Narcotics remains a dangerous and costly problem. Journalists do not have the freedom to expose official corruption, and justice systems lack credibility. Poverty and vast disparities of income still threaten economic reform and play into the hands of antidemocratic forces. These problems are widespread, and are especially evident in Colombia, where guerrillas threaten democracy, and Peru, where the greatest threat to democracy is the president.

U.S. Policy. The U.S. needs to take a clear-eyed view of both the achievements and shortcomings of reform in Latin America. Our policy toward the region should work to consolidate the substantial gains in democracy and civilian control of the military. Yet we need to do more to address narcotics, corruption, human rights abuses, and income disparities. U.S. leadership and sustained interest in the region can strengthen reformers and help move Latin America toward further reform.

First, the United States must lead on free trade and economic integration in the hemisphere. Opening Latin America's economies is the most important step we can take to help create a new middle class in Latin America and consolidate democracy. To make U.S. leadership on trade possible, Congress must grant the President fast-track negotiating authority and approve trade parity for the Caribbean economies.

Closer trade ties and market reforms will also help address the most critical internal problem in the region: low living standards and vast social economic disparity. Trade and liberalization will foster economic discipline and reduce inflation, which hurts the poor the most. They will also free up resources spent previously on inefficient state industries, providing funds to implement additional reforms in education and social programs. President Clinton should urge his fellow leaders to implement such reforms when he meets with them at the Summit of the Americas next year in Chile—having fast-track authority will boost his ability to do so.

Second, the United States must work more closely with its partners in Latin America. U.S. unilateral action—as with the Helms-Burton law on Cuba—undermines cooperation, and stands in stark contrast to the cooperative successes we have had elsewhere in the hemisphere. We need multilateral cooperation to address our common problems, including corruption, arms trafficking, environmental degradation and the flow of narcotics.

Narcotics not only lead to misery in North America, but are a leading source of corruption and a threat to democracy in Latin America. The issue can only be addressed as part of a multi-faceted U.S. policy of regional cooperation. To promote such cooperation, Congress should repeal the certification statute, which requires the President to sanction countries that don't measure up to U.S. counter-narcotics standards. That statute has outlived its usefulness.

Third, the United States should redouble efforts to strengthen the rule in Latin America. These advances depend on the political will of the region's leaders, but U.S. technical assistance programs can provide the